

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 04450 270808Z

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 OES-06 /025 W
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P R 270640Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1848
INFO USIA WASHDC

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PASS AID

USIA FOR INA

AID FOR KEYS MACMANUS PHA/POP/FPSD

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, BG (HUDA, SIGMA)
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM: HUDA, MS. SIGMA

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1. MS. SIGMA HUDA, DYNAMIC YOUNG BANGLADESHI LAWYER, ARRIVING WASHINGTON O/A AUGUST 30, TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE ON ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY TO BE HELD AT AIRLIE HOUSE. TRAVEL AND EXPENSES FUNDED BY POPULATION COUNCIL. DEPARTING BANGLADESH FOR LONDON 26 AUGUST.

2. EMBASSY NOMINATES MS. HUDA FOR PARTIAL IVP GRANT IN WOMEN'S

ACTIVITIES SECTOR. THIRTY-ONE YEARS OLD, MRS. HUDA WAS THE THIRD PRACTISING IN BANGLADESH. SHE IS INTERESTED, ACTIVE, AND COMMANDS BROAD RESPECT IN WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND THE LAW, AS WITNESS HER MEMBERSHIP ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND POST OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INFLUENTIAL BANGLADESH SUPREME COURT BAR ASSOCIATION. EARLIER THIS YEAR SHE ORGANIZED FIRST ANNUAL BANGLADESH LAWYERS' CONFERENCE. INTERESTED PARTICULARLY IN PLIGHT OF RURAL WOMEN AND TASK OF MAKING LAW MORE RESPONSIVE TO THEIR NEEDS.

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3. BIO DATA:

(A) PDOB: 10 OCT. 45, FARIDUPUR, BANGLADESH
(B) EDUCATION: BA PUNJAB UNIVERSITY, PAKISTAN
L.L.B., PESHAWAR UNIVERSITY, PAKISTAN, 1969
(C) ENGLISH COMPETENCY: FLUENT
(D) MARITAL STATUS: MARRIED (HUSBAND, MRS. HUDA'S PARTNER,
WILL BE IN U.S. CONCURRENTLY ON BUSINESS, BUT WILL NOT
PARTICIPATE IN IVP ACTIVITIES.)
(E) ESCORT: NOT REQUIRED
(F) PREVIOUS U.S. GRANT/TRAVEL: NONE
(G) FOREIGN TRAVEL: UK, ITALY, W. GERMANY.

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4. JUSTIFICATION FOR NOMINATION:

MS. HUDA BIDS FAIR TO BECOMING ONE OF THE LEADING FIGURES AND GENERAL POLITICS. IN ADDITION TO THE HIGH-PROFILE ACTIVITIES MENTIONED ABOVE, SHE DISCREETLY CLOSE TO, AND IS PRESENTLY READING CRIMINAL LAW WITH, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S BEST-KNOW CRIMINAL LAWYERS, THE DEFENCE COUNSEL FOR RECENTLY-EXECUTED JSD LEADER LT. COL. TAHER, EX-MP SERAJUL HUQ, A LONG-TIME AND WELL-CONNECTED AWAMI LEAGUE POLITICIAN, AND IS ALIKELY CONDIDATE FOR PARLIAMENT HERSELF (ASSUMING ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD). DECIDEDLY PRO-WESTERN, MR. HUDA AND HER HUSBAND MAINTAIN SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING THE RELEASE OF AN IMPRISONED AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL, AND ARE INVOLVED IN THE DEFENCE OF A CURRENTLY-IMPRISONED DUTCH CITIZEN. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THIS TRIP TO THE U.S. THUS REPRESENTS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOSE A RISING YOUNG AND INCREASINGLY INFLUENTIAL SOCIO-POLITICAL ACTIVIST ALREADY PREDISPOSED TO, BUT WITH ONLY LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF, THE DEMOCRATIC AND PROGRESSIVE CURRENTS OF THOUGHT SO EVIDENT IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN LIFE. A LIMITED IV PROGRAM FOR MS. HUDA IS THUS CLEARLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH AND SUPORTIVE OF POST'S COUNTRY PLAN PRIORITIES I AND II.

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5. PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS:

AIRLIE HOUSE; AUGUST 31 TO SEPTEMBER 4. WASHINGTON D.C.;
SEPTEMBER 5 TO 8. MEETINGS WITH POLITICAL LEADERS ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND MEMBERS OF LEGAL PROFESSION. CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.; SEPTEMBER 9 TO 10. DISCUSSIONS WITH U. VA. STAFF ON COEDUCATION; MEETING WITH MRS. QUINCY WRIGHT (LOUISE), 906

FENDALL TERRANCE, FORMER PROFESSOR UNIV. OF CHICAGO AND LEADER
IN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S EDUCATION. NYC; SEPTEMBER 11 TO 14.
MEETING WITH MR. AND MRS. GEORGE ZEIDENSTEIN, POP COUNCIL, UN
VISIT, CULTURAL EVENTS. HUDA IS KNOW TO KEYS MACMANUS,
PHA/POP/FPSD,AID, WHO HELPED ARRANGE PARTICIPATION AT AIRLIE
AND CAN ASSISIT CU IN PLANNING RELEVANT PROGRAM.

6. EMBASSY REGRETS SHORT NOTICE OF REQUEST DUE FACT MS. HUDA'S
TRIP ONLY BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION AT LAST MOMENT. AS PER PARA
4, ABOVE, HOWEVER, POST CONSIDERS OPPORTUNITY IMPORTANT AND
HOPES DEPARTMENT CAN COMMODATE. PRIORITY REPLY REQUESTED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DACCA04450
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760327-0369
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760814/aaaaalfc.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 NOV 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM: HUDA, MS. SIGMA BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: OEXC, BG, (HUDA, SIGMA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006